

**DARPA-PA-18-02-08 Virtual Intelligence Processing (VIP)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
as of 7/10/19**

16Q: Do you anticipate funding any other seedlings or programs in the near future on this, or related topics?

16A: The decision to fund seedlings or other programs on this or related topics has not been made.

15Q: Can the deadline be extended?

15A: No, proposals in response to this notice are due no later than 4:00 PM on July 15, 2019 (Eastern). Please see Section IV.B of DARPA-PA-18-02-08 for submission instructions.

14Q: We are interested in submitting a grant for this program, is that possible?

14A: No, per DARPA-PA-18-02-08 Section I “This AIE Opportunity is issued under the Program Announcement for AIE, DARPA-PA-18-02. All awards will be made in the form of an Other Transaction (OT) for prototype project. The total award value for the combined Phase 1 base and Phase 2 option is limited to \$1,000,000. This total award value includes Government funding and performer cost share, if required.” No other award type can be used. DARPA will only be issuing Other Transactions.

▲▲▲▲ New Questions and Answers ▲▲▲▲

13Q: Can you please clarify if we are meant to respond to both the VIP solicitation and the Program Announcement for AIE? They both are listed as the same solicitation number, but with separate due dates and instructions.

13A: Proposals can only be submitted to the VIP Opportunity Announcement DARPA-PA-18-02-08. DARPA-PA-18-02, is a Program Announcement which was posted to FBO on July 20, 2018 and can be found at: <https://www.fbo.gov/spg/ODA/DARPA/CMO/DARPA-PA-18-02/listing.html> or by searching for "DARPA-PA-18-02" on FBO. Per Section 2.2 of the DARPA-PA-18-02 Program Announcement (PA), "AIE Opportunities will be published as Pre-Solicitation Notices on FedBizOpps issued under Program Announcement (PA) DARPA-PA-18-02. These AIE Opportunities will solicit proposals and will be open for at least 30 days from publication at <https://www.fbo.gov/>." Each new AIE Notice will (1) identify specific details regarding the research topic of interest, and (2) provide proposal content, POC and submission instructions in addition to those outlined in DARPA-PA-18-02, including the due date for proposal submissions.

Currently DARPA has one active AIE Opportunity. DARPA-PA-18-02-08, is the Virtual Intelligence Processing (VIP) AIE Opportunity posted on June 14, 2019 and can be found at: <https://www.fbo.gov/spg/ODA/DARPA/CMO/DARPA-PA-18-02-08/listing.html> or by searching for “DARPA-PA-18-02-08” on FBO.

Please refer to FAQ 10 regarding the necessary Attachments to propose to VIP.

12Q: The payment schedule seems to indicate that only 4 payments will be disbursed during the 12 months of Phase 1 upon delivery and acceptance of a Milestone Report. Are the 4 payments based on the total for their respective duration in Vol. 2 (i.e. Milestone 2 payment is for the total of those 3 months in Vol. 2)?

If a milestone is completed before it's due, can it be submitted early and does that affect payment disbursement and / or the next milestone's due date?

Is there an upfront payment to begin work or is payment only disbursed upon acceptance of a completed Milestone Report?

12A: Please refer to DARPA-PA-18-02 Program Announcement Section 2.3 “Proposers must only propose an OT agreement with fixed payable milestones. Fixed payable milestones are fixed payments based on successful completion of the milestone accomplishments agreed to in the milestone plan. Refer to the Model OT provided as an attachment to this solicitation for additional information. Specific milestones will be based upon the Research Project Objectives detailed in the AIE Opportunity.” Since payment will only be paid per milestone all costs should be built into the final milestone prices. There will not be upfront payments. Milestones may be submitted early if they are ready and payment will be made accordingly. Early submission of Milestones does not affect the due date for the next milestone.

11Q: Is a sole-proprietorship an eligible small business structure?

11A: Please refer to Section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. § 632) for eligibility. Per the Appendix A: Other Transactions (OT) Authority Section of DARPA-PA-18-02 “If the proposer requests award of an OT as a non-traditional defense contractor, as defined by section 2302(9), as a nonprofit research institution, or as a small business, as defined under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. § 632), information must be included in the price proposal to support the claim.”

10Q: Where can I find the necessary Attachments to propose to this AIE Opportunity?

10A: Attachments for Volume 1 Summary Slide, Volume 1, Volume 2, Volume 2 Price Summary Spreadsheet, and Volume 3 are provided with DARPA-PA-18-02, Program Announcement which was posted to FBO on July 20, 2018 and can be found at: <https://www.fbo.gov/spg/ODA/DARPA/CMO/DARPA-PA-18-02/listing.html> or by searching for "DARPA-PA-18-02" on FBO. Per DARPA-PA-18-02-08 Virtual Intelligence Processing (VIP) AIE Opportunity proposers also must complete Task Description Document (TDD), and Schedule of Milestones and Payments Attachments.

9Q: What machine learning applications are of interest to the DoD?

9A: Please see the DARPA webpage and, specifically, the AI Next Campaign page (<http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/ai-next-campaign>) for detail on DoD AI applications and Third Wave AI technologies.

8Q: Volume 2 Price Summary Spreadsheet: can we add a month column to Phase 1 tab?

8A: As long as Phase 1 does not exceed 12 months and Phase II does not exceed 6 months. See Section I. C of DARPA-PA-18-02-08.

7Q: Is the package attached to this DARPA-PA-18-02-08 VIP AIE Opportunity an addition to package attached to DARPA-PA-18-02 Program Announcement.

7A: Yes, please submit all the necessary attachments provided with DARPA-PA-18-02-08, VIP AIE Opportunity and DARPA-PA-18-02, Program Announcement.

6Q: Could you please confirm that the TDD is NOT included in the 8 page limit of the Technical and Management Volume? The TDD template says there is no page limit, but it is included in the Volume 1 template.

6A: Per the cover page of Volume 1 the Task Description Document (TDD) is not included in the 8 page limit of the Technical and Management Volume. Please use the TDD template provided in the DARPA-PA-18-02-08, AIE Opportunity.

5Q: Would it be preferable for a University to be the primary contractor vs. a company for an OT award?

5A: Please review Appendix A: Other Transactions (OT) Authority Section of DARPA-PA-18-02 for a list of qualifying conditions that need to be met for an OT award.

4Q: Are there any anticipated publication restrictions for VIP?

4A: Per Section 3.2 Fundamental Research of DARPA-PA-18-02 Program Announcement “Based on the anticipated type of proposer (e.g., university or industry) and the nature of the solicited work, the Government expects that some awards will include restrictions on the resultant research that will require the awardee to seek DARPA permission before publishing any information or results relative to the program.” Please review this Section for additional information.

3Q: Can an FFRDC and/or a Government Entity submit a proposal? Can another mechanism be used for this solicitation besides Other Transactions (OTs)?

3A: Per DARPA-PA-18-02-08 Section I “This AIE Opportunity is issued under the Program Announcement for AIE, DARPA-PA-18-02. All awards will be made in the form of an Other Transaction (OT) for prototype project. The total award value for the combined Phase 1 base and Phase 2 option is limited to \$1,000,000. This total award value includes Government funding and performer cost share, if required.” No other award type can be used. DARPA will only be issuing Other Transactions.

Per Section 4 of DARPA-PA-18-02 Program Announcement (PA) FFRDCs are subject to applicable direct competition limitations and cannot propose to a DARPA AIE Opportunity under this PA in any capacity unless they meet the following conditions: (1) FFRDCs must clearly demonstrate that the proposed work is not otherwise available from the private sector. (2) FFRDCs must provide a letter on official letterhead from their sponsoring organization citing the specific authority establishing their eligibility to propose to Government solicitations and compete with industry, and their compliance with the associated FFRDC sponsor agreement’s terms and conditions. This information is required for FFRDCs proposing to be awardees or subawardees.

Government Entities (e.g., Government/National laboratories, military educational institutions, etc.) are subject to applicable direct competition limitations. Government entities must clearly demonstrate that the work is not otherwise available from the private sector and provide written documentation citing the specific statutory authority and contractual authority, if relevant, establishing their ability to propose to Government solicitations. This information is required for Government Entities proposing to be awardees or subawardees.

2Q: The AIE Opportunity Notice calls for a “novel computational theory”. Does this mean a new computer architecture?

2A: The VIP program aims to develop algorithms based on mathematical models and representations that have not been the focus of AI technologies development. The VIP program understands that simulations of new architectures may be necessary to support novel algorithms, but VIP is not interested in actual novel hardware implementations.

1Q: Are you able to provide feedback on a specific idea and/or approach? Could we schedule a call or meeting in person to ask questions about the program?

1A: Please review DARPA-PA-18-02-08 Section I.B, “Objective/Scope”, for topics of interest to determine whether or not your approach fits within the scope of VIP. We are unable to provide proposer specific feedback at this time. If you are interested in submitting a formal proposal, please follow the guidelines outlined in DARPA-PA-18-02-08.